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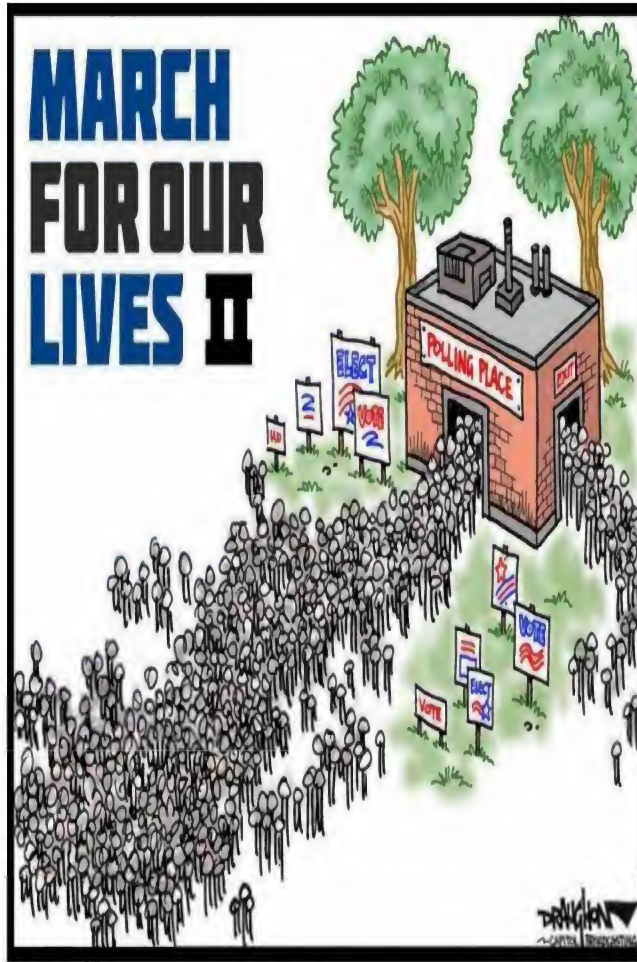
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Thursday, March 29, 2018





Opinion Roundup

Thursday, March 23, 2018 -- A round up of opinion, commentary and analysis on: 2020 census could impact NC representation, Democrats hold edge in congressional campaigns, Family Dollar settles \$45 million class-action lawsuit, Atlantic Coast Pipeline opponents protests and more.

[CLAUDIA RUPICH: Trump census question about citizenship could impact NC representation, federal funding](#) (WRAL-TV reports) -- Some North Carolina officials and activists feel that putting a citizenship question on the U.S. census is a big deal that could impact participation.

[NOAH SMITH: Why Raleigh, Charlotte work for black residents](#) (Bloomberg Column) -- There's something special about North Carolina. Its two biggest cities, Charlotte and Raleigh, have quietly succeeded in doing relatively well by their black residents. Raleigh especially stands out. Nationally, the median African-American household income is \$38,555 — about one-third less than the median for all Americans. In Charlotte and Raleigh, however, black household income is higher than in most other big cities, with Raleigh doing especially well. Black homeownership rates are also decent, at 41.6 percent in Charlotte and 41.3 percent in Raleigh. Both cities still have considerable black-white income gaps, so this success should be seen in relative terms. Raleigh and Charlotte are also both known as meccas for black entrepreneurs. Black Enterprise recently declared Raleigh “the startup capital of the South,” with a booming venture capital presence. American Underground, a Google-affiliated organization dedicated to helping connect entrepreneurs, is located in Durham, in the Raleigh metropolitan area; 22.4 percent of its startups are minority-owned. Meanwhile, Charlotte, with more than 13,000 black-owned businesses,

are helping.

[Democrats hold edge in congressional and legislative campaigns](#) (High Point University Poll) -- When asked about their choices for U.S. Congress, 41 percent of North Carolinians say they would vote for the Democratic Party's candidate if the election were held today, and 35 percent say they would vote for the Republican Party's candidate. Concerning the N.C. General Assembly campaigns, 40 percent say they prefer the Democratic Party's candidate in their local race for the state House of Representatives, and 35 percent say they would vote Republican while 40 percent of the same respondents say they would vote Democratic in their local race for the state Senate compared to 37 percent who say they would vote Republican.

[ROBERT ORR: They call me a RINO. I'm still a real Republican](#) (Charlotte Observer column) -- The Republican Party's values are being tested by Congress, the president and others who've forgotten the principles that made the GOP great.

[N.C. prison officials assaulted in 2 attacks](#) (AP reports) -- A state agency says officials at a North Carolina prison were attacked in separate incidents.

[Charlotte police already restricting 2019 vacations](#) (AP reports) -- Police officers in North Carolina's largest city are being warned a year ahead not to plan on vacations early in 2019 because of major basketball events.

[Third-party picks are earning a place on Tar Heel ballots](#) (Wilson Times) -- Our state should stop punishing independents by requiring them to petition for ballot access. Collecting thousands or tens of thousands of signatures is a high hurdle that prevents otherwise qualified unaffiliated candidates from putting themselves forward for public service. Though unaffiliated voters don't comprise a political party, if they did, that formidable voting bloc would immediately become a contender. North Carolina should add an unaffiliated primary to its May election schedule, allowing any qualified candidate to compete against fellow independents for a spot on the general election ballot. While the game's still rigged and the playing field's still tilted toward the two major parties, giving Greens a place at the table is a quantum leap forward for political choice.

[And now, a touch of Green](#) (Fayetteville Observer) -- It may take it a while to build up much of a voting base, but it's nevertheless good to see a new party getting formal recognition from the state. The state elections board voted unanimously Tuesday to certify the North Carolina Green Party, which means the party's candidates can automatically get onto state ballots at least through 2020.

[ASHLEY FAHEY: Gov. Cooper weighs in on corporate recruitment post-HB2, incentives, Toyota-Mazda](#) (Charlotte Business Journal reports) -- In a wide-ranging interview, the governor talked through a number of economic development topics, including the Toyota-Mazda loss to Alabama, Amazon HQ2, "transformative project" incentives, and recruitment efforts following last year's repeal of House Bill 2.

[debt](#) (Hendersonville Times-News reports) -- U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis spoke Wednesday on everything from a North Carolina native being held in a Turkish prison to the national debt and dysfunction in Washington. Tillis addressed these topics and more during a roughly hour-long roundtable discussion at the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce.

[Family Dollar agrees to pay \\$45 million to settle long-running gender bias lawsuit](#) (Charlotte Observer reports) -- Matthews discount retailer Family Dollar has agreed to pay \$45 million to settle a class-action lawsuit dating back to 2002. Nearly 37,000 female store managers allege they were paid less than their male counterparts for doing the same jobs.

EDUCATION

[RICK SELTZER: Tuition Grows in Importance](#) (Inside Higher Ed analysis) -- Annual report on public higher education finance shows more states relying more heavily on tuition, even in a year when appropriations rose nationally.

[AMERICA MORENO JIMENEZ: DACAmended: uncertainty in the life of a teacher](#) (EdNC column) -- In the United States, there are approximately 8,800 educators who are teaching under the protection of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). In North Carolina there are 264 DACAmended educators. I am one of those 264.

[LIZ BELL: Trauma researchers continue community-driven work to disrupt poverty in Edgecombe](#) (EdNC analysis) -- For months, Rural Opportunity Institute co-founders Seth Saeugling and Vichi Jagannathan have gathered Tarboro community members, interviewed families and leaders, and analyzed research around intergenerational trauma in a Pattillo Middle School office.

[ROBERT KINLAW: "Choice Not Chance" for Wake County's Black and Latino boys](#) (EdNC reports) -- The second annual Choice Not Chance conference, hosted by Wake County Public Schools at St. Augustine's University on Saturday, focused on positive academic outreach for young men of color and their parents. Rodney Trice said the challenges the young men face are often highlighted in the public academic sphere, and he wants to counter portrayals that suggest an aversion to education.

[John Ehle, writer, founder of UNC School of the Arts dies](#) (AP obit) -- John Ehle, an award-winning writer who helped develop what is now the UNC School of the Arts, has died. He was 92.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

[LAURA LESLIE: Pipeline opponents hold vigil outside governor's office](#) (WRAL-TV reports) -- Opponents of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline have been staging protests outside Gov. Roy Cooper's office this week, saying work on the interstate natural gas pipeline is damaging homes and property.

[JOHN DOWNEY: How N.C.'s solar jobs growth stacks up in nationwide census](#) (Charlotte Business Journal) -- North Carolina managed to eke out a small gain in solar jobs in 2017 as the number nationwide dropped by 3.8% to 250,271.

[ALLISON BALLARD: Women's History: Notable Coastal Women](#) (Coastal

at a few of the significant women of the North Carolina coast and their contributions to history.

HEALTH

[Opioid overdoses in NC are rising faster than in the rest of Southeast, ER data shows](#)(Charlotte Observer reports) -- Suspected opioid overdoses treated at North Carolina emergency rooms have increased at a rate more than double that of the Southeast as a whole in recent months, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports.

... AND MORE

[JEFF HAMPTON: "Nights in Rodanthe" house up for sale - asking \\$1.25 million](#)(Norfolk Virginian-Pilot reports) -- The "Nights in Rodanthe" house, the setting of the 2008 movie starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane, just went on sale for \$1.25 million. The six-bedroom home sits on the oceanfront just off N.C. 12 in the village of Rodanthe. "I'm getting calls from Germany already," said longtime Outer Banks realtor Frank Jakob. "I expect this house to go for more than I'm asking."

[MONICA LALIBERTE: New tool lets you see what Facebook knows about you](#) (WRAL-TV reports) -- Facebook announced changes to its privacy tools. One new tool allows users to download all the information Facebook has about them. To check your archive, go to Facebook.com/settings and select "General Account Settings." Click on the link that says download a copy of your Facebook data. Right now, users must be on a computer to download their data. You can't access the archive on a mobile account, and, if you decide to ask Facebook to delete your data, it can take up to 90 days. If you log in to Facebook during that period, any data removal request is canceled.

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